



## The Whetstone of Witte

By Robert Recorde

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 360 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.8in. The sole edition of Robert Recorde's *The Whetstone of Witte* was printed at London by John Kingston in 1557. One of Recorde's concerns in this book is to develop not only a means of representing powers of numbers, but also a means of naming them. Prior to the development of a numerical index notation, the names given to the powers were of considerable importance. Hence in these pages we find terminology which is now archaic, for instance the strange word *zenzizenzizike*, the name for the eighth power of a number. It is generally acknowledged that Recorde's treatise on algebra, in the section entitled *The arte of cossike numbers*, is the first to be printed in the English language. Although this work owes much to the German mathematicians Christoff Rudolff and Michael Stifel, it does have one well-known claim to originality; the first use of two parallel lines as the sign for equality (because noe 2 thyngs, can be moare equalle). Recorde's invention of the equals sign, together with his adoption of the sign (which betokeneth more)...



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